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THE SCRANTON TRIBUNE.

SCRANTON, MARCH 31, 1894.

Two pearns and several inflictions manic enactment.

Keep an Eye on Councils. In the interesting letter with which President Chittenden of select council recently favored a morning contemporary it was virtually charged to the discredit of the local press that through its lukewarmness or indifference, some months ago, the city of Scranton was robbed of \$100,000 in valuable public franchises. Without assuming either which belongs to an episode now beyond recall-an episode, too, in which, if the press was derelict, the city councile, whose immediate duty and business was, then, as it is now, to protect the public welfare, whether aided or ignored by the newspapers-THE TRIB UNE, in view of next week's connectimanic reorganization, desires to volunteer a suggestion.

It desires to suggest that those citizens who feel dissatisfied with the recent work of councils, and who, like Mr. Chittenden, appear to place the burden of their blame rather upon the newspapers than upon the councilmen individually responsible, hereafter take the pains to keep more closely in touch of delay at this much traveled portion. How was the proprietor of the new with the progress of local legislation. From the very nature of things, it is day of real danger. At any moment zard and vain to expect the local press to do human life may be sacrificed or noneverything in this direction. While fatal accident result in permanent init may not heretofore have done as jury. The danger will be practically much as it could or should have done, removed by the construction of this it has been, is, and will be powerless to viaduct, the money for the viaduct is the new house and then come down do anything unless loyally supported siready in sight and all that is now by an intelligent public sentiment that | necessary is one final vote in select | dog! (though why that comparison is is not only willing to make searching council, executive approval and the be- usually made to suggest cold weather individual raquiry into the details of ginning of real business. Fortunately I am not prepared to explain. It municipal legislation, but also willing these preliminaries will soon be atto reward faithful and punish unfaith | tended to ful servants at the polls. Nor can we, in this connection, wholly acquit those members of councils who, when aware of legislative abuses and conversant with inner details of alleged jobbery of the most momentons war in the hisand corruption, do not take the froutle tory of civilization, whether conveyed night. to share their knowledge with the publie until too late to be of practical

But, letting this phase of the matter next Monday evening a new body of trials, pains and sacrifices, will live in so good a cause, even if the night was legislators will have charge of our human recollection so long as patriot- cold. Martyrs of days gone by didn't municipal destiny. We cannot now ism is a vital sentiment and gratitude suffer from the cold. Heat is a deal indo the mistakes that belong to his is a good time for all classes and conlitions of citizens to decide upon a neglect them which they are doing penned by the masterly hand of slipshod and faulty workmanship, if not to greater evils. It will be THE familiar in every household. redoubled attention to the proceedings of our municipal government; but it in so far that it can be accurate and It cannot play the detective. It cannot assume the functions of a spy.

Will Mr. Chittenden and other honorable and fair minded members of councils agree to help it to correct informathrough the press, in time to be of use | culty be regained. to the public, such exclusive knowledge of jobbery and wrong as may come to them by virtue of their official trust?

ly conferred by Scranton Elks the ful acknowledgment. They were shown other evening when they chose as their a dramatic composition by a foreigner exalted ruler for the ensuing year which, in treating its Americans charversatile, eloquent and companionable acters, actually neglected to carica-Colonel F. J. Fitzsimmons. In view ture our Yankee customs and manners, of the fact that this tenure of office which was content to rest its public him by 350 of of the foremost men in be sure, they were a trifle richer than the lodge, as well as a high personal tribute to a gentleman whose philosophy, eloquence, wit and humor rank educating their daughters in "Paree." dowments

An Important Office.

with the new law creating in certain surance of our distinguished considercounties the office of county controller ation. already shows a material saving to the public. It is estimated, we believe, that the new office, including its \$2,500 salary, clerk hire, stationery and incidentals, will cost something like \$5,000 a year. More than that amount has will be expected to re-elect City Clerk been saved to the Luzerne countytrens ury in the first month of Controller expectation is founded on years of Reese's term. For January, 1893, the faithful, diligent and conscientions sounty's expenses were \$11,000. For service which have made Mr. Lavella January, 1894, they were \$5,000, and the as much a part of the city of Scranton falling off was due, not to a decrease as the city hall is a part of it. It is in the necessary business of county ad- founded on a familiarity with municiministration, but to a vigorous and pal affairs which, if one man can ever ministration, but to a vigorous and pai strairs which, if one man can ever mic. How silly one should impartial blue-penciling of illegal and be truly said to be indispensable, points feel if, like Wilkes Barreaus with exorbitant charges, and to a general to Mr. Lavelle as that man. It is their swell club, we had to resort to overhanling of the county finances. founded upon a modesty which has such'an appellation as 'The Westmore-For February the saving is not nearly so great, partly because of extra litigation waged against the county by vietims of the controller's economical snickersnee during the preceding a quiet strength of personal manliness month, and partly because many abuses which had existed in January and got body's friend. We just simply couldn't It is a pity that it had not occurred to properly dressed down, did not dare spare him from the city clerkship, and show their heads again.

But it is clearly evident from the controllership experiment is progress. Ang satisfactorily to the people. It was the city's obligations to Mr. Lavelle is life, as spotless and beautiful as the not to be expected that the cutting off broader and deeper than this Time purest in the land, of his utter freedom of illegal revenues and the scaling of without number, almost, when he has from bigotry, his highistanding of prin

healthy part and thus do a temporary lership, however, deserve to be comutweigh the inevitable mistakes, the wisdom of the law will have been fully

indicated.

Enough has been made manifest with worth. reference to the new law to demonstrate the supreme need of choosing honest, experienced and of painful injury within two years courageous men to the office of conform a sufficiently serious local record troller. A county controller under the against the sharp pointed picket fence | terms of the present law possesses | his past proposals, we do not see how to fully justify its abolition by council- nearly the same preponderating import- it could be prevented from giving him suce in the government of a county not coincide with the duties of a mayor or burgess. He does not possess their appointive powers. But he is nevertheless by all odds the most influential executive official in the county government, and if he be the right man salary ten times over. The salary, by to assent to or to contradict this charge. the way, is relatively too small. It should be at least as much as the salary paid a president judge, and could well be doubled if thereby the quality of the conpant could be doubled also.

The controllership is an innovation in county government which has great possibilities.

Is THE coincidence prophetic that ize the day after Ail Fools' day?

COUNCILS HAVE noted none too harshly in pushing forward, with the utmost possible expedition, Mr. Davies' ordinance for the erection of the proposed West Lackawanna viaduct. Every day of Scranton's main business avenue is a theater to know

A Yankee in Gray.

in prosy chronicle or cleverly interwoven into fascinating fiction, will never lack interest. The spirit of that mempass, what of the ruture. Beginning orable conflict, its heroic struggles,

a human faculty. tory. We can, though, have a share in In "A Yankee in Gray," the open- were about 90,779 people in Scrauton the making of future history; and this ing chapters of which are printed in who would have lifted their eyebrows this issue of THE TRIBUNE, one of the more careful scrutiny of the doings of survivors of this crucial struggle for their official servants. There should at American freedom has constructed a lieved it would be ready enough to have all sessions of common and select narrative that has all the accuracy of even a dog fight on the stage. Now council be a liberal representation of fact blended with all the pleasing imtaxpayers. It is not enough to elect agery and sentiment of romance. It men to do a certain work and then is in a large sense a prose epic, it. Such a policy leads inevitably to Charles B. Lewis, whose writings under the pseudonym of "M Quad" are

can offer no claims to omniscience and it is clean in tone, wholesome in atit can be of service to the public only mosphere and instinct with a genuine and handsome a manager and one that love for American institutions. It is a is so thoroughly at home in good impartial in its reports and comments. story which the young should read for clothes and good society, and is withat instruction, and which the old will so slert and capable a business man relish for the stirring reminiscences what Scranton wants in the theatrical that it will call to mind. Do not miss line. the opening chapters; for once snapped | who have an idea that because we all tion? Will they extend to the public the thread of interest will with diffi-

Those who recently witnessed Sar- a new paper, a new musician, a new don's enjoyable comedy on "Americans" corn doctor, or an alleged Frenchman AN AGREEABLE tribute was deserved - surprise particularly worthy of gratewill be the first under the occupancy appeal simply on a refined presentation of the Elks' new home, the selection of of actual facts. The Americans who Colonel Fitzsimmons was in truth the went abroad in this play were neither highest compliment that could be paid | cads, snobs, sycopants nor hoydens. To Scranton. It was a fitting recognition the average American gets to be, in of his industrious labors in behalf of real life, and somewhat more conventional than are are those of our plutocratic families that make a practice of high among Scranton's intellectual en . But we were willing to accept this the other remarkable concessions. On behalf of Scranton Americans we beg The experience of Luzerne county to extend to Victorien Sardou an as-

Remember Martin Lavelle. While there is no thought of doing Scranton's new councilmen that they Martin Lavelle by accismation. This never obtruded itself; upon a conscientious application to duty which has never shirked any labors calculated to promote the city's interests, and upon which has made Mr. Lavelle every-

that's all there is about it. But the duty of the incoming coungeneral howl which has gone up from cil will not end with the mere re-electhe old ringsters in Luzerne that the tion of an official that they would have to re-elect anyhow. The measure of

bills payable down to their normal di- been solicited to accept a larger commensions of fairness and honesty could pensation for his increasing valuable daily living that proceed without the incitement of a services he has refused point blank, upon lusty clamor. A county which has the plea that the city cannot afford been so long and so systematically mis- to expend more than it is now expendgoverned in certain directions as has ing upon the city clerkship. This kind Luzerne can be restored to health only of refusal from some men would be through surgical excisions, amputations | construed as a bid for cheap applause and lancings that will draw blood and and as a hint for more coaxing; but in | tended conscience. elicit outcry. It is even possible that the case of Mr. Livelle it is absolutely the knife will sometimes attack a without any sinister significance. It is nothing more nor less than that natuinjustice. The merits of the control- ral outcropping of the rugged honesty of a man who puts heart and conscience puted in the aggregate. If they then into his work, who is above cheap trick or artifice and who feels sincerely, although, as we think, mistakenly, that

Therefore, while it is improbable that either the old or the incoming councils could succeed in any direct attempt to load extra componsation on Mr. Lavelle's shoulders in the face of some kind of public testimonial in rethat is possessed in a city government cognition of services that have made by the mayor or in a borough govern- him one of the municipality's conepiment by the burgess. His duties do cuous creditors. The ingenious gentlemen of councils present and to come ought to find it essy to adopt some plan whereby the services of this faithful official may be suitably recognized. No better occasion suggests itself than the period of the annual rein the right place, he can earn his organization next Monday night; and this broad hint is therefore thrown out in due season, for whatever it may be

SSHE Observes It.

I heard a man remark the other day what a special pet of Providence Arthur Frathingham must be, if we are to be-Scranton's new councils are to organ- lieve the statement that the Lord loveth whom He chasteneth. It did sound a triffe sacriligeous, yet somehow we couldn't object much to the statement, for the speaker wasn't in the least fl p pant about the matter, but seemed to feel an intense anxiety to have it understood that Arthur hadn't been given a fair show in this theater business that the blizgeneral freezing up the land which Was the prophesied by prophets o strike us from the sevento to the twelfth of March, would fool along until the date fixed for the opening of cold enough to freeze the hair on a would seem far more applicable to freeze the hair off the dog than on him.) People will begin to reason that when the residents of Scranton return from the sunny south that a blizz od The literature of the great rebellion may be immediately looked for in this will never come to an end. The annals vicinity. They say Mr. Fellows has expected a cold spell ever since be as w Mr. Connell land in town the other

But speaking of the theater, I am glad that it was opened on the date named. People should have been will ing to make martyrs of themselves in more uncomfortable. more uncomfortable. It was a good thing to open the house on time. There and said, "I told you so," if it hadn't have opened according to promise There weren't more than ten who bethe 90,000 odd are prepared to assert that they believed in Arthur all along and want passes for their trust and faithfulness. Such is the perversity of this stiff-necked generation.

I am also glad that such a fine lookng man as Mr. Blackwood has been seected as manager. Although This remands has been selected for choice is in line with the good taste serial publication in this paper because manifested in all the details of the new house, I don't suppose there is another theater in the state that has as young with so thorough a comprehension of You know there are some people tag indiscriminately after everything new, and tumble over each other and receive sundry bad bumps in our eagerness to catch up with it, whether it be Abroad" were treated to a theatrieal who teaches French with more or less American accent, and allow certain newspaper liars to throw mud at our most respectable citizens and still remain in our midst, that we will be delighted with whatever is pitched at us in the way of stage performances; but Mr. Blackwood knows us too well to make this mistake,

It is a great satisfaction to see a Scrantonian, who has lived as boy and man in our midst for years, at the nead of something that will add much to the elevation and improvement of Screntoniane. It is a satisfaction to have a theater that in elegands, good' taste and refinement of detail is a pride not only to the city, but to the country at large. For, allow me to state, that the Frothingham is going to have not slight exaggeration in gratefulness for only local reputation, but it will be the other remarkable concessions. On known far beyond the state of Pennsylvania, and when we start on our MUSICAL MERCHANDISE, travels, instead of being annoyed with MUSIC, ETC. blundering reminiscences of atupid people who proverbially say: "Scanton; let me see, that's the little place where everything is in danger of tumbling into the mines and where the accident insurance agen's While there is no thought of doing where the big premiums, and otherwise, it may not be amiss to tell get such big premiums, and where most of the citizens carry bowie knives and revolvers. they will respectfully remark: "Oh, from Scranton, are you? Have been told you've a nice theater there. have a pretty name for a new house, a name that belongs to it by birthright and that did not have to be evolved from a novel or filehed from some high-born Englishman's patronyland.

> There is hope for Wilkes Barre yet, however. If it is unable to dis-play originality it at least seems to have developed a sudden and and acute attack of religion through the Record. our mayor to change the sentence of the Rice combination to banishment to Wilkes Barre, where that particular brand of evangelists seems to be appreciated and needed

When I think of the mayor we have, of the nobility of his character, of his

ciple and the belief advocated by his

Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge, It really makes me tired to see the readiness with which the small fry from which a good many generations of cultivation would be incapable of producing such an official, pick flaws with a mau who has a bona fide and not a pre-

Maybe, you will wonder how I came o know so much about all these matters, being only a girl. Well, you see, it is reflected brilliance, I am a typewriter, not a type machine, you understand, but a manipulator of the keys, and where men are more or less in the vicinity, I naturally hear a good he is receiving all that his services are | deal and learn a little, Oh, no, men are not all stupid.

Does a type writing girl flirt with her employee? Well, now that is a eading question. I know you are dyng to hear my answer. As a rule she loesn't, at least I don't know any office girl who flirts. The fact is when you see a man day out and day during office hours, with hi company manners hung up against the wall in his "other" coat, he isn't likely to be endearing enough to fasten the affections of a sensible girl, even if he should so desire which he generally doesn't. To be a man's typewriter is almost as fatal to romantic attachmen ss to be his wife. You learn a good many of his little faults and find out enough disagreeable points in his disposition to destroy all your illusions if rou are so idiotic as to possess any After a man flings rather strong language at you because your code spelling differs slightly from his or because you have a fond theory about the agreement of nouns and verbs, he may have real pretty dark, curling hair, waving back from a forehead like the Apollo's in white majesty, and you'll not have the slightest longing to stroke the same unless with the intention of snatching out the locks by handfuls. Next week I'll tell you something about my office and a few of the things

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